Claims

30   For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether

or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

        1.   (Canceled)

35   2.   (Canceled)

        3.   (Canceled)

        4.   (Canceled)

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        5.   (Canceled)

        6.   (Canceled)

45   7.   (Canceled)

        8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended)   A processing engine for a processing node of an

50   electronic commerce distributed network, the processing engine comprising:

a plurality of communication units operable to communicate with participating

organizations in a plurality of communication protocols, the plurality of communication units

further operable to receive electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and

communicate said electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;

55   an engine operable to process an electronic commerce message received from an

originator organization and to build an outgoing electronic commerce message for

transmission to a recipient organization, wherein the engine accomplishes processing and

building by:

accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization

60   and the recipient organization; and

invoking selected functions from a <u>plurality</u> ~~matrix~~ of functions where the

selected functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the

recipient organization; ~~and~~

an interface unit coupled to and communicating with the plurality of communication

65   units and the engine, the interface unit allowing incoming and said outgoing electronic

commerce messages to be communicated between the plurality of communication units and

the engine;

the processing engine providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for

participating organizations that have different computer and communication environments<u>;</u>

70   <u>and</u>

<u>   wherein the plurality of communication units includes a plurality of Internet mail</u>

<u>units, and the processing engine further comprising a gateway coupled to the plurality of</u>

<u>Internet mail units and the engine, the gateway operable to interface between a</u>

<u>communication protocol of the plurality of internet mail units and a communication protocol</u>

75   <u>of the interface unit</u>.

10.   (Original)   The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the interface unit is an

X.400 unit operable to communicate using an X.400 protocol.

80   11.   (Original)   The processing engine of Claim 10, wherein the plurality of communication units comprise a P1 unit and a P7 unit.

12.   (Canceled)

85   13.   (Currently Amended)   The processing engine of Claim 9 ~~12~~, wherein the plurality of Internet mail units comprise an SMTP unit, a MIME unit and a POP unit.

14.   (Original)   The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the profiles of the originator organization and the recipient organization are accessible via an external user
90   interface.

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)
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.17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

100   19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

Please add the following claims:
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21.   (New)   The system of Claim 9, wherein the selected functions comprise an electronic data exchange conversion.

22.   (New)   The system of Claim 9, wherein the selected functions comprise virus
110   checking.

23.   (New)   The system of Claim 9, wherein the selected functions comprise providing a translation.

115   24.   (New) The system of Claim 9, wherein the processing engine maintains audit files of the selected functions, the audit files accessible via an external user interface.

25.   (New) A method for an electronic commerce distributed network, comprising:

    communicating with participating organizations in a plurality of communication

120   protocols using a plurality communication units;

    receiving electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and communicating said electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;

    processing at a processing engine an electronic commerce message received from an originator organization and building an outgoing electronic commerce message for

125   transmission to a recipient organization by:

        accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization and the recipient organization; and

        invoking selected functions from a plurality of functions where the selected functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the recipient

130   organization;

    allowing incoming and said outgoing electronic commerce messages to be communicated between the plurality of communication units and the engine at an interface unit;

    providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for participating organizations that

135   have different computer and communication environments; and

        interfacing between a communication protocol of a plurality of Internet mail units of the communication units and a communication protocol of the interface unit.

26.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the interface unit is an X.400 unit

140   operable to communicate using an X.400 protocol.

27.   (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of communication units comprise a P1 unit and a P7 unit.

145   28.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of Internet mail units comprise an SMTP unit, a MIME unit and a POP unit.

29.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the profiles of the originator organization and the recipient organization are accessible via an external user interface.

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30.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the selected functions comprise an electronic data exchange conversion.

31.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the selected functions comprise

155   virus checking.

32.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the selected functions comprise providing a translation.

160   33.   (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the processing engine maintains audit files of the selected functions, the audit files accessible via an external user interface.

34.   (New) A system for an electronic commerce distributed network, comprising:

means for communicating with participating organizations in a plurality of
165   communication protocols using a plurality communication units;

means for receiving electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and
communicating said electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;

means for processing at a processing engine an electronic commerce message
received from an originator organization and building an outgoing electronic commerce
170   message for transmission to a recipient organization by:

accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization
and the recipient organization; and

invoking selected functions from a plurality of functions where the selected
functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the recipient
175   organization;

means for allowing incoming and said outgoing electronic commerce messages to be
communicated between the plurality of communication units and the engine at an interface
unit;

means for providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for participating
180   organizations that have different computer and communication environments; and

means for interfacing between a communication protocol of a plurality of Internet
mail units of the communication units and a communication protocol of the interface unit.